

Message from the Governor of Kochi Prefecture regarding COVID-19

- Looking at the current state of COVID-19 infections in Kochi prefecture, it appears we have emerged from the recent period of widespread infection. However, within the last two to three weeks, there have been some days where new daily infections have been in the teens. Due to this, we can see that case numbers are now starting to slowly increase once again.
- When looking at the time required for infection rates to reduce, during the most recent wave of infection it took a much longer time when compared to the third wave of infections. It appears that this is due to the highly infection nature of COVID-19 variant strains.
- Furthermore, recently we have seen the spread of localised clusters of infections in areas surrounding Kochi city such as Nankoku City, Kami City and Tosa City due to groups dining out and going to karaoke, with this being another factor in the drawing out of the moderate level of new infections.
- Therefore, I believe we are at a junction point in which if we let our guard down, this could lead to the rapid nationwide spread of the virus. In particular, I would ask for the strong vigilance of residents of Nankoku City, Kami City and Tosa City or those who commute through these areas.
- Due to these trying circumstances, I ask for your understanding that I am unable to remove my request to all Kochi citizens to refrain from dining out in groups of more than four people and for longer than two hours that was set to expire at the end of this month. This request has been extended until 11 July 2021. I apologize for the inconvenience and ask for your cooperation in abiding by these guidelines.
- In addition, I would like to draw attention to the fact that participating in karaoke without a mask carries a very high risk of infection. Within our prefecture this activity has led to clusters of infections on numerous occasions, and so I ask for your cooperation to avoid this high-risk activity.
- Meanwhile, due to the cooperation of the people of Kochi and the municipalities of Kochi, the vaccination of elderly citizens is progressing well.
- However, while it has been confirmed that the vaccine is effective in reducing the severity of the virus, it does not mean that vaccinated citizens are immune.
- If citizens neglect basic infection prevention methods just because they are vaccinated, they risk becoming infected themselves, or infecting their loved ones and friends.
- Also, one dose of the vaccine does not provide adequate antibody protection. It is thought that it takes one to two weeks after receiving the second dose of the vaccine for it to start providing optimal protection.
- Considering these facts, it is necessary even for those who have been fully vaccinated to continue thoroughly taking basic infection prevention methods such as wearing a mask, sanitizing their hands regularly and avoiding the three Cs.
- We are at a critical junction point in which our actions will determine if there is another rapid spread of infection. Due to this, I once again ask for the cooperation of all residents of Kochi, including those who are fully vaccinated, to continue to take basic infection prevention measures and abide by the guidelines outlined above regarding dining out.
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28 June 2021

Hamada Seiji, Governor of Kochi Prefecture

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout in Kochi Prefecture

Health Policy Department

1. Current vaccination levels

Number of vaccine doses received	Kochi Prefecture (National rank)		Nationally - percent of population vaccinated	
	One	166,113	25.7% (4 th)	21,411,586
Two	86,349	13.3% (3 rd)	8,311,950	7.2%
Total	252,462	19.5% (5 th)	29,723,536	12.9%

Data taken from the Vaccination Recording System (VRS)

※The vaccination rate data is based on the population greater than 12 years old.

2. Workplace Vaccination Support Project (as of 25 June 2021)

1. Mass Vaccination Center (located at Kochi City Port)

Period	Forecast of vaccination numbers	Review status
Mid-July to late October	16,000 people (2000 vaccine doses administrated a week for 16 weeks)	Under review

2. Workplace vaccination at companies, universities etc.

Number of organizations	Forecast of vaccination numbers	Review status
5 organizations	7,700 people	Approval complete
12 organizations	29,640 people	Under review
Total 17 organizations	37,340 people	—

Approx. 53,000 people have applied to be vaccinated through the workplace vaccination support project.

COVID-19 : Requests to Citizens and Businesses in Kochi Prefecture

Response stage : Special Precaution (**Red**) (28 June 2021)

Requests from 28 June until **11 July**

○Within Kochi Prefecture, the rate of infection from COVID-19 variant strains is extremely high.

In particular, from mid June, there have numerous confirmed cases in the areas surrounding Kochi city (Nankoku City, Kami City and Tosa City.)

More than ever, please undertake basic infection prevention measures.

- (1) Wear masks and avoid the 3 C's. (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings).
- (2) When playing sports, disinfect the change room and any high use areas (e.g. the playing area) and open windows to allow fresh air in.
- (3) Install COCOA, the COVID-19 contact tracing application.
- (4) Do not harass and discriminate against health workers, those who have caught COVID-19, and their families.

○To Businesses

- (1) Follow infection prevention guidelines (especially having staff wear masks).
- (2) Restaurants and bars that serve alcoholic beverages, and managers of sports facilities are especially requested to comply with guidelines.

1 Regarding Eating with others Please pay attention to the following points.

- (1) Based on recent infection trends in the prefecture, **Please refrain from dining out in groups of more than four people and for longer than two hours.**
- (2) **During times you are mainly talking, wear a mask as much as possible, to prevent droplet infection.**
- (3) **Refrain from high-risk behaviors** such as kenpai/henpai (pouring drinks or being poured a drink by others), drinking from a cup someone else has used, loud conversation, and **singing karaoke without a mask.**

2 Regarding Going Out There is no request to limit going outside. Follow basic infection prevention measures.

3 Regarding Travel to Other Prefectures

- (1) Limit travel to areas currently under a "State of Emergency (緊急事態宣言)" or Quasi-Emergency Measures (まん延防止等重点措置)" as much as possible. If you must travel, wear a mask, avoid the 3 C's, and take all precautions possible to limit the possibility of infection.
- (2) If you travel, choose locations where COVID-19 is not widespread, travel in areas and during times when it is not crowded, and travel only with people you are in contact with on a regular basis.
- (3) If traveling to other prefectures, follow the guidelines and requests of their governors.
- (4) If your trip will not be able to abide by the above points, seriously reconsider traveling.
- (5) If you have a fever or other symptoms associated with COVID-19, do not travel to other prefectures.

4 Regarding Events etc. When holding events, observe the following and comply with industry-specific guidelines.

- (1) Max. participants
 - Events where loud cheering/voices are not expected (classical concerts, ceremonies, exhibitions, etc.) : 100% capacity
 - Events where loud cheering/voices are expected (rock and pop concerts, sports events, etc.) : 50% capacity
 - (Groups of five or fewer people do not have to be spaced apart. In this case capacity may go over 50%.)
- (2) Events that involve travel throughout Japan or more than 1000 participants must be discussed beforehand with the Prefecture.

5 Regarding Prefectural Facilities Facilities are open as usual and follow industry-specific infection prevention guidelines.